

Arts in the Parks

Patoka Lake Property Profile

Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2953.htm>

Key Messages/Stories:

- Patoka Lake was established in 1980 through the Flood Control Act of 1965. The property is a true Indiana reservoir as it is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and operated by Indiana State Parks. Patoka Lake offers scenic water overlooks, hiking trails, boating opportunities, an 18-hole disc golf course, a nature center, historic Moery Cabin and much more. Patoka Lake offers more than 17,000 acres of land and over 8,000 acres of water for everyone to enjoy.
- Cultural History of the Area – All 26,000 acres of the property were once homesites and farmland of the many European settlers of the area. Most immigrants to the area were from Germany, Switzerland and Ireland. An 1800's cabin, last owned by the Moery Family, was moved to the Nature Center in 2008. Many relics of the past still exist in the woods and along the lakeshore. Staff and visitors still find old farm machinery, tools, and every day items hiding in plain sight on top the soils surface just waiting to be discovered. As one of Indiana's newest state properties there is still so much left unturned from the past.
- Natural beauty – From the beautiful lakeshore views to a short hike to Totem Rock the natural aesthetics are plentiful at Patoka Lake. Hiking trails lead visitors through oak, hickory and maple forests, along creek beds, creek outcroppings and up and down the hills characteristic of Southern Indiana.

Top Five Things to Do:

- Hike to Totem Rock
- Visit the Nature Center
- Attend a kayak tour or take a boat ride
- Play a game of disc golf of the 18-hole course

Lodging: Campgrounds are available onsite. Cabins can be found locally within 2 minutes of the Main Gate. Hotels are also available in Jasper and French Lick.

General visitor profile: campers (weekends or weeklong); day-users for picnics, beach use, boating, fishing and hiking; visiting the nature center; school groups in spring/summer/fall; scout and other groups for volunteer service; groups in the group camps.

Potential arts venues:

- Amphitheaters available: seating for 40, some lighting available, with fire pit in middle, next to Modern Campground Shelter House for more seating.
- Modern Campground Shelter House: seating for 40, built-in bench seating, electricity, lighting, restrooms are a close walk away.
- Nature Center:
 - Program room with restroom, PowerPoint options and seating for 70-80 guests.
 - Outdoor fire pit with seating: under tree canopy



Visitation in FY2014: 650,000+

Nearby Communities: Jasper, French Lick

Please email questions to Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov.

